

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1421
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: CONTINUING TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO REQUEST FOR END OF
EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 2577 (DTG 051350Z APR 78)

1. SUMMARY: PRESENTATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S EASTERN
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MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSALS TO HIRC RECEIVED PROMINENT BUT
GENERALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD TREATMENT IN APRIL 6 AND 7
TURKISH PRESS. EDITORIAL COMMENTS SHOWED PLEASURE AT
US DECISION BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST OVER-OPTIMISM AT THIS
STAGE. END SUMMARY

2. ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENTATION TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS COMMITTEE APRIL 6 OF REQUEST FOR LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN MOST TURKISH PAPERS APRIL 6 AND 7 AND WAS LEADING STORY APRIL 7 IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS. ASIDE FROM APRIL 6 STATEMENTS OF SECRETARY VANCE AND SECRETARY BROWN, AND DETAILS OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS, MAJOR ELEMENTS OF MOST STORIES WERE THE MECHANICS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION, (MOST PAPERS NOTED SCHEDULING OF HEARINGS FOR APRIL 14 AND 17), EXPECTATION OF A STRONG FIGHT BY THE "GREEK LOBBY", APRIL 5 STATEMENTS BY FIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OPPOSING LIFTING OF EMBARGO, AND OFFICIAL PROTESTS IN ATHENS.

3. APRIL 6 STORY IN CONSERVATIVE, PRO-OPPOSITION TERCUMAN STATED THAT, ACCORDING TO "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES", THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IS MAKING CERTAIN SHOWS OF GOOD WILL IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S JOB EASIER, INCLUDING INDICATING FLEXIBILITY ON THE QUESTION OF THE REOPENING OF US MILITARY BASES. ECEVIT WAS SAID TO HAVE TOLD AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE FUTURE OF THE BASES WILL BE DETERMINED IN AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE MADE SEPARATELY FROM THE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) WHICH IS TO BE NEGOTIATED. ARTICLE ALSO SIAD ECEVIT HINTED THAT IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED, PERMISSION TO OPERATE THE BASES ACCORDING TO THE OLD AGREEMENT CAN BE GIVEN.

4. IN APRIL 6 EDITORIAL COMMENT IN TERCUMAN, NAZLI
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ILICAK CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION "AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD" AND SAID PRESIDENT CARTER AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE REALIZED THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS INEFFECTIVE AND HARMFUL TO NATO AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. GUNERI CIVAOGU IN SAME PAPER SAID THAT CARTER APPEARS TO BE SEPARATING THE EMBARGO FROM THE CYPRUS PROBLEM; "THIS NEW ATTITUDE...HAS GIVEN TURKEY GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN BRINGING ABOUT A SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS". CIVAOGU STATED THAT THIS IS "THE START OF A NEW AND HARD PERIOD" AS THE GREEKS MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO HAVE THE EMBARGO MAINTAINED; THE EARLIEST THE EMBARGO CAN BE LIFTED IS JUNE. "ECEVIT HAS ALREADY REVEALED EFFORTS FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION WHICH MAY GIVE A FAVORABLE EFFECT ON CONGRESS...IF HE PROVIDES SPEEDY DEVELOPMENTS FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION, WE THINK WE MAY ENTER JUNE WITH A 'HAPPY ENDING'". IN APRIL 7 EDITORIAL, CIVAOGU EXPRESSED SUSPICIONS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A PLAN TO PUT TURKEY'S ECONOMY AND FOREIGN POLICY UNDER OUTSIDE SUPERVISION; NOTING THAT THE RECENT LETTER OF INTENT SIGNED WITH THE IMF PUTS THE TURKISH ECONOMY UNDER PERIODIC REVIEW OF THAT ORGANIZATION, HE POINTS OUT THAT, UNLIKE THE DCA, WHICH PROVIDED AUTOMATIC APPROPRIATIONS OF AID FOR FOUR YEARS, THE NEW US AID PACKAGE REQUIRES ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS WHICH

COULD VARY IN AMOUNT "ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION". THIS, HE SAID, WOULD PLACE TURKEY UNDER SUPERVISION BASED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS. CIVAOGU CONCLUDED THAT, IF, BY THE TIME DISCUSSIONS BEGIN FOR THE NEW DCA, TURKEY HAS TAKEN MANY STEPS TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION, TURKEY WILL NO LONGER BE UNDER SUPERVISION BUT WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE US BASES (THE FIVE WHICH ARE STILL REQUIRED BY THE US) AS A HIGH TRUMP IN THE BARGAINING.

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USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
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USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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5. SENATOR METIN TOKER IN INDEPENDENT HURRIYET APRIL 6 STATED, "THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION VIEWS THE PROBLEM REALISTICALLY AND WITH GOOD WILL....THEY WERE ASSITED BY THE FACT THAT ECEVIT SET ASIDE HIS HARSH ATTITUDE AND MADE MATTERS EASITER FOR THEM." TOKER ESTIMATED CHANCES

OF THE EMBARGO'S REPEAL AT 51 TO 49. IN APRIL 7 HURRIYET, CUNEYT ARCA YUREK SAYS THAT "THROUGH THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, TURKEY WILL GAIN PRESTIGE MORE THAN ACTUAL MONEY," UNCLASSIFIED

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SINCE THE \$175 MILLION FMS CREDITS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED EARLIER AND THE \$50 MILLION SSA HAD EARLIER BEEN OFFERED TO AND REJECTED AS INSUFFICIENT BY THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. ARCA YUREK COMMENTS THAT ALTHOUGH LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL GIVE TURKEY THIS "MORAL GAIN" AND "WILL ALSO ASSIST IN THE LIFTING OF ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS,...TURKEY MUST ACT CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE US....A GREAT STATE WHICH RESORTS TO TWO DIFFERENT POLICIES IN TWO MONTHS, BECAUSE IT SUITS ITS INTERESTS, CAN RESORT AGAIN TO MANY-SIDED ACTIONS ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE FUTURE. AND UNTIL A FINAL RESULT IS OBTAINED FROM CONGRESS, WE MUST NOT MAKE OPTIMISTIC PLANS FOR THE FUTURE."

6. ON APRIL 6, SAMI KOHEN IN MODERATE LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET CALLED THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO CONGRESS "A NEW STAGE IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS", AND SAID, "IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO HAVE THE REQUEST ACCEPTED IN VIEW OF THE POWERFUL GREEK LOBBY AND OTHER OBJECTORS. ...IT SEEMS THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ABLE TO SURMOUNT THESE OBSTACLES....IT IS HOPED (CONGRESS'S) APPROVAL WILL BE GIVEN BY JUNE." ABDI IPEKCI AN APRIL 7 MILLIYET DISCUSSED THE GREEK LOBBY, POINTING OUT THAT ITS MEMBERS CAN PUT PRESSURE ON SOME CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS WHO WILL BE UP FOR RE-ELECTION NEXT FALL BUT CONCLUDING THAT A COMBINATION OF FACTORS IS LIKELY TO MAKE THE GREEK LOBBY LESS SUCCESSFUL THIS TIME. FACTORS LISTED BY IPEKCI WERE A FEELING IN CONGRESS THAT IT HAS TOO OFTEN ACTED IN THE INTERESTS OF ETHNIC GROUPS RATHER THAN OF THE US AS A WHOLE, REALIZATION THAT THE EMBARGO HAS HURT NATO, AND THE FAVORABLE EFFECT WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN TURKEY PRESENTS ITS CYPRUS PROPOSALS TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

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7. ALI SIRMEN IN LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT (BUT FREQUENTLY ANTI-US) CUMHURİYET COMMENTED THAT "WITH THE PLACING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY, ARTICLE 3 OF THE NATO AGREEMENT WAS NULLIFIED AND TURKEY WAS DEPRIVED OF THE MEANS OF OBTAINING ARMS...TURKEY IS ONE OF THE MOST NEEDY MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, YET IT IS THE NATION

WHO CONTRIBUTES THE GREATEST PROPORTAION OF HER NATIONAL
BUDGET FOR DEFENSE. NATO WAS EXPENSIVE FOR TURKEY, AND
TURKEY WAS CHEAP FOR NATO....ONE SEEN 'NO TO NATO'
SLOGANS ON THE WALLS....THIS SLOGAN IS JUSTIFIED."
SPIERS

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